

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives, characterized by decrease in the amount of unbound glyoxal, wherein the glyoxal treated polysaccharide derivatives are treated with an aqueous solution of one or more water-soluble aluminium salts, or one or more water-soluble borates, or a combination of one or more water-soluble aluminium salts and one or more water-soluble borates and, optionally, with suitable buffer substances to set pH of the glyoxal treated polysaccharide derivative, and dried.
2. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the pH of a 2% strength solution of the glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivative is between 4 and 8.
3. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative was treated with more than 0.4% by weight of glyoxal, based on the polysaccharide derivative.
4. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the ratio of water-soluble borate to glyoxal is less than 0.5:1, based on the weight of the two substances used.
5. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the content of extractable, unbound glyoxal is less than 0.1% by weight.
6. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative is cellulose ether.

7. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1,
characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative contains alkyl groups.
- 5 8. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1,
characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative is methyl hydroxyethyl
cellulose or methyl hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose or mixtures
of these substances.
- 10 9. Process for decreasing the unbound glyoxal in glyoxal-treated
polysaccharide derivatives, comprising:
- 15 a) mixing the polysaccharide derivative at a temperature between 20
and 70°C with an aqueous solution of one or more water-soluble
aluminium salts, or one or more water-soluble borates, or a
combination of one or more aluminium salts and one or more
water-soluble borates, wherein the resulting mixture optionally
contains further buffer substances to set the pH, and then
- 20 b) drying the mixture.
10. Process according to Claim 9, characterized in that the buffer substance is
one or more salts of citric acid or one or more salts of phosphoric acid.